

## **Mayor's Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the seagrass community of South Florida is the largest seagrass meadow in the world and has helped create and sustain the world class fishing in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 alone, seagrass communities in Monroe supported an estimated harvest of roughly \$59 million for six commercial species of fish and shellfish; and

WHEREAS, while there are 1.5 million acres of seagrass in Monroe County, Florida over 30,000 acres in South Florida have propeller scars; and

WHEREAS, seagrass stabilizes bottom sediments and helps to absorb the excess nutrients from land run-off which can further damage the quality of our waters; and

WHEREAS, the seagrass community supports hundreds of species of fish at various stages of their development; and

WHEREAS, awareness of the problems facing this vital natural resource will help to create an understanding of the ways seagrass damage can impact both the economic and ecological value of our marine resources.

Now, Therefore, by virtue of the power vested in me as mayor of Monroe County, I do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2001 as

### **SEAGRASS AWARENESS MONTH**

DATED this 21<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2001

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GEORGE NEUGENT, MAYOR